IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite the claims as follows:

1-14.   (Canceled).

15.   (Currently Amended) A method of searching conversations, comprising:

at a server:

receiving a search query from a client;

identifying a plurality of conversations relevant to the search query, the plurality of conversations including at least two conversations each having two or more messages sharing a common set of characteristics that meet predefined criteria and a respective conversation identifier, <u>wherein the predefined criteria includes a subject of the two or more messages and information other than the subject, a reply-to field, a references field and a message identifier field of the two or more messages</u>; and

returning to the client a list of the identified conversations as a search result to the search query.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein identifying the plurality of conversations includes identifying a first message relevant to the search query.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising associating the first message to a respective conversation based at least in part on a subject of the message and information other than the subject of the message.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising associating the first message to the respective conversation based in part on information other than a normalized version of the subject of the message.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising associating the first message to a respective conversation based at least in part on a subject of the message and information other than one or both of a references field and an in-reply-to field.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method of searching messages, comprising:

searching a message repository to identify two or more messages relevant to a search query, wherein each identified message is associated with a respective conversation of a

plurality of conversations, each conversation having a respective conversation identifier, wherein at least one respective conversation of the plurality of conversations comprises two or more messages sharing a common set of characteristics that meet predefined criteria and wherein the predefined criteria includes a subject of the two or more messages and information other than the subject, a reply-to field, a references field and a message identifier field of the two or more messages;

identifying the respective conversation identifiers of the conversations associated with the identified messages;

creating a list of two or more conversations, each of the conversations in the list corresponding to a respective identified conversation identifier; and

producing at least a portion of the list of two or more conversations as the search result.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising associating a respective message to a conversation in the plurality of conversations based in part on information other than a subject of the message.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising associating a respective message to a conversation in the plurality of conversations based in part on information other than a normalized version of a subject reference of the message.

23-31. (Canceled)

32.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium, storing one or more programs for execution by one or more processors at a server system, the one or more programs comprising:

instructions for receiving a search query from a client;

instructions for identifying a plurality of conversations relevant to the search query, the plurality of conversations including at least two conversations each having two or more messages sharing a common set of characteristics that meet predefined criteria and a respective conversation identifier, wherein the predefined criteria includes a subject of the two or more messages and information other than the subject, a reply-to field, a references field and a message identifier field of the two or more messages; and

instructions for returning to the client a list of the identified conversations as a search result to the search query.

33.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the instructions for identifying a plurality of conversations include instructions for identifying a first message relevant to the search query.

34.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 33, further comprising instructions for associating the first message to a respective conversation based at least in part on a subject of the message and information other than the subject of the message.

35.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 34, further comprising instructions for associating the first message to the respective conversation based in part on information other than a normalized version of the subject of the message.

36.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 34, further comprising instructions for associating the first message to a respective conversation based at least in part on a subject of the message and information other than one or both of a references field and an in-reply-to field.

37.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium, storing one or more programs for execution by one or more processors, the one or more programs comprising:

        instructions for searching a message repository to identify two or more messages relevant to a search query, wherein each identified message is associated with a respective conversation of a plurality of conversations, each conversation having a respective conversation identifier, wherein at least one respective conversation of the plurality of conversations comprises two or more messages sharing a common set of characteristics that meet predefined criteria and wherein the predefined criteria includes a subject of the two or more messages and information other than the subject, a reply-to field, a references field and a message identifier field of the two or more messages;

        instructions for identifying conversation identifiers of the conversations associated with the identified messages;

        instructions for creating a list of two or more conversations, each of the two or more conversations corresponding to a respective identified conversation identifier; and

        instructions for producing the list of two or more conversations as the search result.

38-40. (Canceled)